accordingly. Other provision of a like nature is also to be made, as well as the description of lightning conduction adverted to by the Rev. Mr. Harcourt in his address to the meeting of March 31st, 1842, and which, when completed, will enable the Dean and Chapter to effect an insurance at a much reduced premium.

In the summer of last year a considerable sum was realized by a two days' sale of relics, consisting of dilapidated stone and charred oak carvings, surplus materials, &c. On the 23rd of January, in the present year, the restoration committee resigned their trust, having expended 22,450*l.* The repairs now proceed under the Dean and Chapter, as of old.

In conclusion, it would be doing injustice to those conducting these important works were we to pass unmentioned the approbation which their efforts have invariably commanded; and whether we regard the judgment and taste of the architect, whose name is a guaranty of sound professional skill, the unwearied co-operation of the Restoration Committee, or the efficient superintendence of Mr. Allen, the active and intelligent clerk of the works, we feel that while a duty of no common order devolved on them, abilities were brought to bear on it fully equal to the occasion. In regarding the noble structure itself, we are led to admire the wisdom of that cruciform arrangement which the piety of the ancient architects prompted them to adopt, a plan which must often have preserved to them a refuge in one portion of their edifice, while it was desolated in the other by some visitation such as those to which York Minster has twice within so short a period been a prey. Such at least has been the case with the latter; while a furious conflagration raged in and consumed one end, the lantern tower stood like a protector between, and intercepted its approach to the other. Now the visitor may stand under that great tower, and whether he look towards the east or the west, north or south, sublime grandeur and sacred order meet his gaze; and in that long and lofty nave,* with its matchless vistas, if his breast heave not with emotions superior to his best wordly aspirations, he is an anomaly, and belongs to a lower order in creation.

"When silent gliding through the sacred aisle,
To join the throng on pious ritual bent:
The organ's solemn peal our thoughts can wile
From ways profane to virtuous intent;
And teach the vengeful bosom to relent;
Each cadence wakes a dormant sympathy;
Each swelling symphony makes penitent:
Such thy celestial power, oh harmony!
In holy tune attuned, to man on bended knee."

SOCIETY OF ARTS.

April 2nd. Dr. Roget, Sec. R.S., V.P., in the chair. The following were elected as members:—W. H. Ashurst, H. T. Harrison, and E. Gibson, jun., Esqrs.

The secretary read a description of Mr. Riding's index-machine for weaving silk goods, which consists of an adaptation of the cylinder of the dobbin (with moveable instead of fixed pegs) to the wires of a jacquard machine, doing away with the cards, levers, pulleys, &c., of the dubbin, and with the cards of the jacquard machine. Mr. Henry Lawson's Reclinia for astronomical purposes was next described, which consists of a frame 6 feet long, having a foot-bracket at bottom. The frame is suspended by two leather straps to a horizontal triangular frame, which rests on two large wheels and one small one; the large wheels are in such a position as to be under the control of a person using the reclinia; the small wheel is under the back part of the frame. A light chain or cord is connected with a pedal attached to the foot-board, which cord leads to a catch, by which the position of a racked arch attached to the foot-board is regulated, in order to set the inclined frame at any given angle; the inclined body frame is filled in with cane-work, as also the pillow-frame, which is attached to the former by means of springs. This observatory reclinia is especially useful when large telescopes are used, in which the sweep of the eye-end from the horizontal position of the tube to the zenith, or vertical position, forms an arc of several feet. When the observer wishes to remove his eye from the telescope, he has only to press down the spring pillow-frame with his head, which can be done without injuring himself, or unadjusting the telescope. The machine above described is used by Mr. Lawson in his private observatory at Bath. The model of a new fire-escape and portable scaffold, by Mr. J. Clarke, was next introduced to the meeting, which is an improvement on Mr Wivell's fire-escape, for which he was rewarded by the society in 1839. Mr. Wivell's invention may be seen every evening at the different stations (in the metropolis) of the society for the prevention of accident by fire. Mr. Clark's improvement consists, 1st. In the mode of raising the upper ladder, which runs between the sides of the larger ladder, thus giving firmness to the whole; 2nd. In the facility of using the small ladder alone; 3rd. In the introduction of a balcony instead of the canvas bag, which forms part of Mr. Wivell's escape; 4th. In attaching the carriage to the main ladder with a different arrangement of the springs, whereby the jerking motion of Mr. Wivell's contrivance is obviated; and 5th. Its adaptation as a portable scaffold, either for the interior or exterior of lofty buildings.

* Some one happily said, on visiting the nave, and in reference to its beautiful windows, that "it was like being inside a kaleidoscope."

Correspondence.

PUBLIC CEMETERIES.

Sir,—The late exposure of the disgraceful proceedings in burial-grounds will probably lead to some new system.

I beg to send you the following *rough hints* for forming large picturesque cemeteries, with appropriate, profitable, and attractive buildings, with the hope that the attention of the parochial authorities may be called by these means to the subject, and that parishes may be led by combining together to have them on a grand and liberal scale.

The whole of the city parishes would form one large and rich company, and if they purchased from 300 to 400 acres of land on the bank of the river Thames, might lay it out in serpentine walks, clumps and groves of trees, plantations, &c., frequently shutting out the views, interspersed with the tombs, monuments, monumental statues, &c., so that the visitors might come suddenly on to a more extended view, thus giving as much variety as possible. Part of the land might be laid out in small woods, with underwoods, which would be growing fast into *money*, would give the whole a park-like appearance, and when required for burials, be cut down and sold; parts might also be devoted to the culture and growth of flowers and shrubs.

With regard to the arrangements of the funerals, there should be a building for the reception of the corpse in some central situation close to the river, with suitable rooms for the mourners and attendants, with a proper landing-place: and as there will be many bodies each day, a large galley would be required, and also others for the mourners.

As to the buildings for the performance of the service of the dead, they should be of such size and grand proportions, forming one complete whole, as to impress the greatest solemnity on the minds of the mourners and visitors; at the same time, to have arrangements in the internal cloisters for the accommodation of the tombs and monuments for individuals, and mausoleums for separate families.

I beg to suggest a church in the form of a complete cathedral in the early decorated style, being the simplest form both for the economical use of material, and that of the right sort, (stone), and space, the accommodations and ornamental forms in the decoration arising (not encumbering, like some other styles of architecture, but assisting) out of the very skeleton of the building, giving the utmost amount of strength and durability with the least quantity of material.

The plan I beg to propose would consist of two towers at the west end, with archways between them and a carriage-drive through the centre of the whole building, which would form the *nave*, leading under the central tower and space, with two chapels on each side, forming the *transepts*, and cloisters on both sides of the carriage-drive, representing the *aisles*; also similar cloisters beyond the central tower and *chancel*, thus giving externally the general and grand outline of a *complete cathedral*, which might be either on a large or moderate scale.

The carriage-drive is intended for the passage of the hearse or galley, which might be drawn on a car by horses, and, with the choir leading and the numerous mourners following, would make at times a grand and impressive procession. The aisles, towers, and other parts, would be divided into stories of cloisters, &c., &c., for tombs and tablets, to the extent of about eighteen times the length of the whole building, and the chapels for the services of the dead.

I have sketched out a plan, section, and description of the above more in detail, and shall be happy at some future time to lay it before your readers, if you should think it worthy of a place in your excellent journal.

I am, Sir, &c.,
Lambeth. William J. Short.

[The buildings of the West of London and Westminster Cemetery, in Old Brompton, in the Italian style, are disposed somewhat on the plan suggested by our correspondent.—Ed.]

PRATT'S CARVING MACHINE.

Sir,—In your last number, I find an article relating to Pratt's patent carving machine, which I am afraid has a direct tendency to mislead a great portion of your architectural readers, more particularly the junior members of the profession. As an ornamental draughtsman, and an enthusiastic admirer of decoration generally, I am induced to offer a few remarks on this subject, and trust you will deem them worthy of insertion in your useful and popular publication. I am under the necessity of quoting from the article mentioned, it being stated therein that by means of Pratt's machine "the most elaborate tracery can be carved out of the solid wood or stone with great rapidity, and for about one-third of the sum it would cost if executed by hand." This estimate is wrong in every respect; and with all due deference to Mr. Pratt's *discernment*, I shall now endeavour to shew the falsity of his assertions. On applying to Mr. Pratt for information respecting his process, he offered to take *any* description of work, and execute it equal to specimens in his window, at a lower price than by hand. On shewing the drawings, however, for the work required (a Gothic screen perforated and worked on both sides), he remarked that he could not do that, nor this (pointing to several parts of the tracery), "*as there was not enough of it alike to pay him*;" and those parts which he offered to do for 1*l.* (*perhaps for* 15*s.*) each were, on his refusal to do the whole, eventually put into the hands of a first rate workman, and by him completed at 14*s.* 6*d.* each—so much for price. The reason Mr. P. cannot take a small order is that the necessary metal patterns (for the cutters of the machine to work by) are sufficiently expensive in themselves to prevent their being kept in stock; and even if such was not the case, every design being different, a new set of patterns must still be made for each job previous to its commencement. The cost of these patterns must be considerable from the care which is required not only in casting, but in giving them a true face afterwards, and the necessity which exists of shifting them frequently, renders the process throughout tedious and irksome in the extreme; and although the cutters act very well, and cut clear with the grain of the wood, still, against it they are quite the reverse.

When the machine has done its portion of the labour, the mitres, eyes, &c., not being touched by the cutters, must be finished by hand, and taking into consideration the cost of the wood pattern in the first instance, the delay caused in casting and filing up the same, the fitting of the patterns in the machine, previous to the work being commenced, the necessity which exists for shifting the cutters over the fillets from one foil to another, and the incompetency of the machine generally to finish its work, must, I think, convince any reasonable person that Pratt's patented process is not a cheap one. Again, as Mr. Pratt does not consider it worth his while to take *small orders*, I do not see how his plan can be productive of any good result as regards the interests of the architect. That the machine is capable of "*working any form, however elaborate*," is incorrect, for if such was the case, it would work the mitres, and as it does not do

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